

Message Text

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ACTION OES-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 NRC-05 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 FEAE-00 DODE-00 AF-06

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C O N F I D E N T I A L IAEA VIENNA 7395

DEPARTMENT PASS ALSO NRC

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: IAEA, TECH, PARM

SUBJ: IAEA REGIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTERS PROJECT

1. THIS CABLE PROVIDES BRIEF "ROUND-UP" OF ITEMS RELATED TO SUBJECT PROJECT.

2. FINANCING. MECKONI HAS ASKED CATLIN TO PREPARE REVISED BUDGET FOR SUBJECT STUDY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT PROPOSAL TO ACCELERATE AND BROADEN STUDY AS WE HAVE URGED, AND POSSIBILITY OF WORLD BANK FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS, WHICH MISSION HAS DISCUSSED WITH DDG HALL. WE UNDERSTAND PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES SHOW PREDICTABLE SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN PRICE TAG FOR ACCELERATED AND BROADENED STUDY. LETTER TO WORLD BANK ASKING FOR CONTRIBUTION IS NOW IN PREPARATION.

3. SOVIET VIEWS. SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS WITH ARKADIEV, ZHELUDEV (NEWLY ARRIVED DDG TO WHOM MECKONI REPORTS), AND PUSHKOV (MEMBER OF MECKONI'S WORKING GROUP) INDICATE SOVIET SUPPORT FOR STUDY. ARKADIEV IS ANXIOUS TO AVOID "A 20 YEAR STUDY." HE BELIEVES CENTRAL PROBLEM IS WHERE CAPITAL FOR REGIONAL CENTERS WILL COME FROM. ZHELUDEV
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SAYS HE HAS TAKEN AN INITIAL "SHOW ME" ATTITUDE TOWARD

REGIONAL CENTERS CONCEPT, BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE WILL NOT RPT NOT BE IMPEDIMENT TO STUDIES. ZHELUDEV ASKED WHETHER US ENVISIONED INCLUSION OF ENRICHMENT PLANTS IN REGIONAL CENTERS, AND WAS TOLD THAT WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT FORECLOSE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS ASPECT MIGHT EVENTUALLY BE STUDIED, BUT THAT WE COULD NOT RPT NOT PRESENTLY FORESEE NEED FOR INCLUDING SUCH PLANTS IN NEAR FUTURE, AND ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD NOT RPT NOT WANT INCLUSION OF STUDIES ON THIS ASPECT TO COMPLICATE OR SLOW DOWN INITIAL STUDIES CENTERING ON STORAGE, REPROCESSING, WASTE HANDLING, AND FUEL REFABRICATION. ZHELUDEV STRESSED DESIRABILITY OF ALSO INVOLVING SOVIET-EXPERTS, AND INDICATED HIS EXPECTATION THAT CATLIN WOULD BE ABLE TO SPEND FULL TIME ON PROJECT. PUSHKOV HAS TAKEN AN ACTIVE ROLE IN WORKING GROUP, BUT HAS TOLD US HE BELIEVES POLITICAL ASPECTS ARE MOST IMPORTANT.

4. OTHER MISSIONS. IN ADDITION TO SOVIETS, MISSION HAS DISCUSSED WITH FOLLOWING MISSIONS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF AGENCY PLANS AND NEEDS RE REGIONAL STUDIES, AND OUR VIEWS ON SUBJECT: CANADA, UK, PHILIPPINES, FRANCE, JAPAN.

A. CANADA AND UK MISSIONS WERE NOT RPT NOT CURRENT ON SUBJECT, AS SLATER (UK) IS NEW AND HAMMOND (CANADA) IS OUT OF TOWN TILL EARLY NEXT MONTH. BOTH MISSIONS ARE REPORTING AGENCY PLANS AND NEEDS, AND WILL STAY IN TOUCH WITH US.

B. SIAZON (PHILIPPINES) WELCOMED STATUS REPORT, EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER REPORTED KOREAN AND PAKISTANI REPROCESSING PLANS, SAID THERE WAS APPROVAL "IN PRINCIPLE" BY PRESIDENT OF PHILIPPINES OF "INVOLVEMENT" IN REGIONAL FUEL CYCLE CENTERS (THIS IS APPARENTLY NOT RPT NOT WIDELY KNOWN IN GOP, AND NOTHING IS BEING DONE TO PURSUE IT), AND SAID SOME DISCREET AND LOW KEY CONTACTS ON SUBJECT DURING GC WOULD BE APPROPRIATE. SIAZON ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT INITIATIVE NOT PRT NOT COME TO OPENLY FROM AGENCY.

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C. MISSION HAS ALSO GIVEN SUMMARY OF AGENCY PROJECT TO JAPANESE AND FRENCH MISSIONS. RECENTLY ARRIVED JAPANESE MISOFF (SASAKI, AEB) HAD NO RPT NO REACTION TO OUR SUMMARY. FRENCH MISOFF (DEMENTHON) WAS QUITE INTERESTED IN SUBJECT AND WONDERED ALOUD WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE SOME BG DISCUSSION OF PROJECT.

5. IMPLEMENTATION OF STUDY. CHARPENTIER (FRENCH EXPERT

WHO IS EXPECTED TO JOIN AGENCY STAFF) HAS HAD INITIAL MEETING WITH GROUP. HE REPORTEDLY BELIEVES NO RPT NO SUBSTANTIAL HELP WILL BE FORTHCOMING FROM FRENCHCEA. HE HAS IN MIND SIMPLIFIED MODEL, ONLY INCLUDING REPROCESSING AND SOME STORAGE, WHICH WOULD BE APPLIED TO SOME SPECIFIC REGIONAL SITUATIONS. HIS ESTIMATE IS THAT THREE MODELERS AND ONE PROGRAMMER CAN DO THIS STUDY IN SIX MONTHS IF THERE IS AN APPROPRIATE PROGRAM IN EXISTENCE SOMEWHERE, AND ONE YEAR IF NOT. CATLIN WOULD PREFER MODEL WHICH INCLUDES WASTE HANDLING AND PREFERABLY REFABRICATION AS INTEGRAL PARTS. HE BELIEVES TO GET JOB DONE RIGHT, US WILL HAVE TO MAKE MAJOR OFFER TO DO MODELING AND COMPUTING WORK. COMMENT: THESE POINTS WILL HOPEFULLY BE CLARIFIED IN THIS WEEKS' CONSULTANT SESSION. SEPTTEL TO FOLLOW.

6. MISCELLANEOUS. MOST SIGNIFICANT AGENCY OFFICIALS TO WHOM WE HAVE TALKED (INCLUDING ZHELUDEV) ARE VERY NEGATIVE ON PROSPECT OF AGENCY ASSUMING OPERATIONAL ROLE IN OPERATING REGIONAL PLANTS, AT LEAST FOR NEAR FUTURE. MISSION AGREES THAT PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION PROBLEMS WOULD BE PROHIBITIVE AND BELIEVES THAT CREDIBILITY OF WHOLE CONCEPT COULD BE DAMAGED IF IT APPEARED THAT THIS IS CENTRAL OPTION ON WHICH AGENCY IS FOCUSING. ON OTHER HAND, WE HAVE URGED SECRETARIAT TO ANALYZE WHOLE RANGE OF POSSIBLE MODES OF AGENCY INVOLVEMENT, INCLUDING, E.G., MANAGEMENT/POLICY VOICE IN STORAGE, SAFEGUARDS, AND GENERAL CONTRACTUAL MATTERS, AS WELL AS TOTAL NON-INVOLVEMENT.LABOWITZ

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